

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 14**

**INCIDENT NO. 98-001**

**DATE: September 24, 1998      TIME: 2:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Devils Lake Basin and eastern North Dakota flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,443.76 feet MSL on September 24.
4. RESOURCES:  
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.  
STATE: No change from previous reports.  
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS:

FEMA1220-DR-ND (1998 flooding)

Job Service North Dakota expects costs for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for 1998 flood victims to reach \$1,566,000. DUA is a federal program providing jobless benefits to individuals who are not eligible for state unemployment benefits. Those who may be eligible include self-employed individuals, business owners, farmers, farm workers and migrant farm workers. As of September 22, 1,046 North Dakotans had applied for DUA, and Job Service North Dakota had paid claim amounts totaling \$1,001,037. The average weekly payment amounts to approximately \$124. Applicants have until October 2 to apply for DUA.

The Crisis Counseling Program, provided by the N.D. Department of Human Services, has 15 counselors working with disaster victims of the 1998 flood and 10 counselors continuing to assist Grand Forks residents impacted by the 1997 flood. Grant funding will continue through October 31 for the 15 counselors, and funding for the 10 counselors ends September 30.

As of September 21, a total of 2,210 North Dakotans had contacted the FEMA teleregistration center to register for Individual Assistance Programs made available as part of FEMA-1220-DR-ND recovery efforts. Of the applicants, 845 received \$993,941 in grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Housing Program.

North Dakota's Individual and Family Grant (IFG) has received 849 applications for assistance and processed 511 applications. IFG staff has so far approved approximately \$130,000 for disaster victims of 1998 flooding in 16 federally-declared counties and two Indian Reservations. The average grant amounts to \$1,413.

The U.S. Small Business Administration reports that its average loan for the 1998 flood disaster amounts to \$4,000 compared to the average loan amount of \$32,000 for the 1997 flood. To date, the SBA has approved \$345,000 in low-interest loans for homeowners and business owners. The SBA has issued 1,457 applications, 395 of which have been returned.

As of September 22, a total of 124 Notice of Interest (NOI) applications had been received for participation in the Public Assistance Program. Applicants include: 16 counties; two Indian Reservations; 61 cities; three private non-profit organizations; three electrical cooperatives; 12 schools and universities; nine park boards; 12 water resource districts; one rural utility; one historical society; and four state agencies. The Processing Center in Bismarck has received 581 Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) and has obligated funds for 503 DSRs. To date, \$11,721,961 in infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal has been determined to be eligible statewide. Public Assistance inspectors have completed initial inspections in all declared counties. The Public Assistance satellite offices in Devils Lake and Jamestown have been closed.

FEMA's Community Relations staff conducted 93 visits with emergency managers and 113 with local officials as part of efforts to assist with the 1998 flood. They also visited 500 senior citizens at senior centers and conducted door-to-door visits to 333 Spirit Lake Reservation homes and 600 homes in the declared counties. Community Relations staff also visited with all Farm Service Agency officers and county extension agents in all declared counties.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The next Devils Lake State Flood Coordination Center (SFCC) meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., October 8, at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director